

Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium, RAP Chair

MAY 2001 RAP MEETING

Host: California Department of Fish & Game
Friday, May 11, 2001 9am-12pm
Attendance: 12 RAP members, 10 guests

PRESENTATIONS

Institutional Update: California Department of Fish & Game GIS Lab (Nancy Wright)

The Marine Region GIS Lab was started in January 2000. The Lab's objective is to map the nearshore area of California from 60 meters to shore; currently 58 out of 1100 square miles of coastline have been mapped. CDFG has contracted several organizations to do coastal habitat mapping and multi-spectral kelp surveys. The lab is in the process of cataloging ~11,000 kelp slides into GIS. CDFG has mapped the range & distribution of 35 fish species. CDFG services for the coastal community include: nearshore substrate mapping, shallow sub-tidal substrate & bathymetry, kelp monitoring, coastline monitoring for erosion, pollution, or emergencies, and GIS & remote sensing support services.

For more information, go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/index.html>

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fishing (Holly Price)

The Alliance was created by members of the fishing community to develop recommendations for the upcoming Sanctuary Management Plan Review, and to comment on marine reserve proposals by other organizations like CDFG (for the Marine Life Protection Act process) & NMFS/ Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Areas of interest include effectiveness of marine reserves, bycatch, stock assessments, and observations. The first subcommittee was formed to study reserves. The subcommittee consists of 5 commercial fishermen (one from each of the five harbors in the Sanctuary), 1 recreational fisherman, 1 fish processor, 4 members of SAC (fishing, harbor, conservation, research), and 2 non-voting members (representatives of the Institute of Fisheries Resources and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary). They envision this subcommittee working with the SAC's Research Activity Panel (RAP) and the Conservation Working Group (CWG) to have meaningful input on issues related to marine zones.

The Marine Life Protection Act Process (Paul Reilly)

The Marine Life Protection Act was established in October of 1999. It is currently at the start of the public process, which may be extended. A Master Plan Team has been assembled with 8 scientists and 6 agency representatives. The primary requirements of MLPA are to develop alternative networks of MPAs, review existing MPAs based on preferred alternatives, and to recommend changes in the existing system. A new classifications system will be used starting in January 2002. The new classifications are: State Marine Reserve- no commercial or recreational fishing, research collecting with permit; State Marine Park- no commercial fishing;

State Marine Conservation Area- various restrictions; and State Marine Cultural Preservation Area- Fort Ross. Recommendations will be made for monitoring, management and enforcement, the improvement of enforcement, funding sources, and public and agency input and review. California is divided into 4 regions: Oregon border to Pt. Arena, Pt. Arena to Ano Nuevo, Ano Nuevo to Pt. Conception, and Pt. Conception to Mexico border. Public workshops will begin in July.

For more information, go to: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa/index.html>

DISCUSSION

Theme for the 2002 Sanctuary Currents Symposium (Andrew DeVogelaere)

Andrew discussed the 3 possible themes for 2002. Resource Management Issues, Marine Protected Areas, and Technology and Exploration. The general consensus of the RAP was that the MPA's topic will be covered in many other forums, and that Technology and Exploration would be the best theme. Many interesting ideas were discussed favoring both topics. No one mentioned Resource Management Issues. Mario Tamburri volunteered to be the RAP liaison if Technology & Exploration was selected as the theme.

MBNMS web site update (Andrew DeVogelaere)

Andrew gave a brief update of the MBNMS web site. The MBNMS web site is being updated. Please send any comments or suggestions to Andrew.

SAC Update (Chris Harrold)

Chris announced that the SAC annual report is now available. It was decided that a SAC Update would be a standing item on the RAP agenda, and that Chris would give the RAP highlights of the SAC meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Bioregion Assessment Project (Andrew DeVogelaere)

The NOAA Biogeography Program will be coming to California to identify and collect selected relevant biological and physical data in a study area from Pt. Arena to Pt. Arguello. They will start with a literature review and then begin to collect data sets on key species and habitats. The program has impressive GIS tools and has done lots of modeling, especially in coral reefs.

For more information go to: <http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/descriptions/canms.shtml>

MBCORC Meeting Update (Chris Harrold/Andrew DeVogelaere)

Chris and Andrew summarized the last MBCORC meeting. CORE has published a white paper on the inadequacy of marine science education in K-12. The problem of affordable housing in the Monterey Bay was also discussed. Innovative ways to recruit employees must be developed.

Fleet Numeric Open House Update (Andrew DeVogelaere)

There was an executive session sponsored by MBCORC where Congressman Sam Farr brought up the need for affordable housing can be solved by looking at Fort Ord. Congressman Farr would like to see all of the institutes in the Monterey Bay work together, and to become

interconnected. The Open House was an overall success, sharing the capabilities of Fleet Numeric and the entire research community with the public.